

Heritage Volunteers Report for 2025 - 2026

It has been yet another year of small miracles for our hardworking Heritage Volunteers. We are very fortunate to have been involved in several prestigious projects here in Cambridge with a team of talented volunteers who invest a lot of their time and energy to achieve great things.

All Saints' Church aka The Painted Church project to attract more visitors is going from strength to strength with a wide range of events organised by our volunteers. Since the project was launched in October 2021 literally thousands of people have visited ASC due to the efforts of this talented group of volunteers who so generously give their time organising and promoting events, stewarding, gardening, researching, guiding, giving talks and generally welcoming visitors to The Painted Church.

Music at All Saints' is now an established part of the Cambridge music scene offering an ambitious and varied programme of music, with recitals on the first Sunday of every month, the ever popular annual October Fest as well as extra concerts throughout the year, including Christmas carols with Granta Choral.

Talks, tours and regular Open Days attract visitors from far and wide, including Cambridge and other university departments, U3A, Arts Societies, tour groups from Europe, Asia and the US. Volunteers continue to research and deliver fascinating talks on a wide range of subjects relating to the architecture, interior design, social history and so much more.

Art at The Painted Church celebrated its fifth year with *A Space Already Full*, again made possible by the generous support of TASC and attracting almost 800 visitors. Students from Rowan Humberstone visited the exhibition over two days and will be working on their own creative response to the exhibition and The Painted Church for another exhibition at ASC later this year.

Successful fundraising means that the second phase of the conservation of the textiles collection is now going ahead. With generous funding from TASC, Art Friends Cambridgeshire and Pilgrim Trust the iconic Dossal curtain is now being conserved.

The gardening volunteers continue to meet on the first Friday morning of every month, come rain or shine these hardy perennials continue in their efforts to beautify the previously overgrown grounds and the border on Jesus Lane. Apart from planting and pruning the gardening party find time to enjoy coffee and cake – please get in touch if you can spare a couple of hours a month to join this very sociable group!

Cambridge Open Studios in July 2025 attracted over 2000 visitors. We will be hosting this again in 2026 with 12 artists exhibiting.

Open Cambridge at The Painted Church last September focussed on an exhibition of the newly conserved textiles and artworks created by Rowan Humberstone.

www.thepaintedchurch.co.uk

The David Parr House: Continues to offer guided tours and an ever increasing programme of exciting workshops. In addition to tours led by house guides, DPH continues to offer House Visits which provide an introduction to the house with time for visitors to explore at their own pace; guides are on hand to answer any questions. Our HVs continue to work as guides, help with cataloguing and cleaning as well as in the shop and at events.

Visit <https://davidparrhouse.org> for further information on tours and workshops.

For more information on joining our Heritage Volunteers contact Pat Robinson:

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